

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 COA-02 STR-08

INT-08 SCEM-02 RSR-01 /198 W
----- 108987

P 021905Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6111

INFO ALL OAS CAPITALS PRIORITY 20

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LIMA 4556

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, US

SUBJ: OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE: TEN DAYS IN LIMA

FROM USOAS DELEGATION

SUMMARY: INITIAL ROUND OF OBSERVATIONS ON PROBLEMS AND PURPOSE OF INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM HAS PLACED OVERALL U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS IN CENTER SPOTLIGHT. ALMOST ALL DELEGATES AGREE THAT MAIN TASK OF COMMITTEE IS TO DEFINE SHAPE OF "MORE MODERN" RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN U.S. AND LATIN COMMUNITY, REFLECTING END OF PATERNALISM AND COLD WAR. IN TERMS OF SYSTEM'S REFORM, DELEGATES DIVIDE OVER WHETHER THIS NEW RELATIONSHIP REQUIRES DRASTIC STRUCTURAL CHANGES OR MERELY NEW COMMITMENT OF POLITICAL WILL TO MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF PRESENT STRUCTURE. EITHER WAY, PRESSURES AIM AT CURBING U.S. "ECONOMIC AGGRESSION" AND SECURING NEW COMMITMENTS IN ECONOMIC FIELD. DIFFICULT CHOICES

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FOR U.S. LIE AHEAD WHICH WILL VITALLY AFFECT OUTCOME

OF MEETING AND FUTURE U.S.-LATIN AMERICA RELATIONSHIP.
END SUMMARY.

1. THIS MESSAGE ATTEMPTS TO IDENTIFY INITIAL THRUST AND
PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE WORK
TO DATE.

ALTHOUGH SOME DELEGATES HAVE COMPLAINED OF TIME WASTED,
PAST FIVE DAYS SPENT IN EXPOSITITN OF GOALS AND PURPOSES
OF INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM HAVE HELPED GIVE SHARPER FOCUS
TO COMMITTEE'S TASK. THEY HAVE ALSO REVEALED SOME
GERNAL TRENDS OF THINKING AMONG LATIN AMERICANS WHICH
USDEL BELIEVES MERIT CAREFUL ATTENTION.

2. CLEAREST CONSENSUS EMERGING AMONG DELEGATES AT THIS
POINT IS THAT "CRISIS" OF SYSTEM HAS MAINLY TO DO WITH
OVERALL RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. ON ONE HAND AND LATIN COM-
MUNITY ON OTHER. MORE THOUGHTFUL PRESENTATIONS HAVE
SOUGHT TO DEPICT SYSTEM HISTORICALLY IN THESE BIPOLAR
TERMS: A FRAMEWORK FOR STRUCTURING RELATIONS BETWEEN
DYNAMIC, EXPANSIONIST, SECURITY-CONSCIOUS U.S. AND
DIVIDED, WEAK, AND DEVELOPMENT-HUNGRY LATINS. IN MINDS
OF VIRTUALLY EVERYONE, CHARACTER OF THOSE RELATIONS HAS
CHANGED RAPIDLY AND RADICALLY IN RECENT YEARS, WHILE
FRAMEWORK HAS REMAINED THAT OF EARLIER ERA AND PROBLEM IS TO
DESIGN NEW FRAMEWORK FOR RELATING U.S. AND LATIN AMERICANS
IN PRESENT-DAY TERMS WHICH WILL SERVE INTERESTS OF BOTH
SIDES IN YEARS AHEAD. (NOTEWORTHY THAT APART FROM ARGEN-
TINES NO ONE HAS ARGUED THAT CONTRASTING U.S. AND LATIN
INTERESTS ARE HOPELESSLY IRRECONCILABLE WITHIN SYSTEM.)

3. OPINION BEGINS TO DIVIDE OVER EXACTLY WHY PRESENT
FRAMEWORK FAILS TO MEET CURRENT NEEDS OF OAS MEMBERS.
ONE GROUP ARGUES THAT PROBLEM IS LESS STRUCTURAL THAN
POLITICAL -- THAT PRESENT ORGANS AND TREATIES WOULD SERVE
REASONABLY WELL IF THERE WERE SUFFICIENT POLITICAL
WILL TO MAKE THEM WORK. ANOTHER GROUP (LED BY PERU,
CHILE, PANAMA) TENDS TO FAULT SYSTEM FOR HAVING INSTITU-
TIONALIZED A DOMINANT/DEPENDENT RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S.
AND BELIEVES DRASTIC CHANGES ARE NEEDED TO ADJUST SUSTEM
TO NEW REALITIES AND LATIN ASPIRATIONS. THINKING ADVANCED
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BY THIS GROUP --ESPECIALLY CHILE AND PERU--IS THAT NEW
SYSTEM SHOULD FUNCTION LESS TO HARMONIZE OUR ELUSIVE
COMMON INTERESTS THAN TO NEGOTIATE AND ADJUST OUR BASIC
DIFFERENCES.

4. PRESCRIPTIONS FOR CHANGE NATURALLY VARY WIDELY AT THIS
POINT. HOWEVER, THEME WHICH GAINED UNIVERSAL CURRENCY
ALMOST IMMEDIATELY WAS BRAZIL'S CALL SOR MAKING GHARTER

MORE FLEXIBLE (SEE LIMA A-162). OPINION OF MOST IS THAT OAS CHARTER PRINCIPLES ARE BASICALLY SOUND BUT 1967 FUNCTIONAL REFORMS WENT TOO FAR IN SETTING IDEAS OF THAT DAY INTO INSTITUTIONAL CONCRETE; DESIGN FOR FUTURE SHOULD BE FAR SIMPLER, LESS DETAILED, AND EASIER TO ADJUST AND REFORM. THERE IS ALSO GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT CHANGE SHOULD PROCEED ON TWO LEVELS: MEASURES WITHIN CHARTER WHICH GOVERNMENTS AND OASGA COULD IMPLEMENT IMMEDIATELY, AND MORE DRASTIC REFORM REQUIRING CHARTER AND TREATY AMENDMENTS.

5. AMONG THE AREAS OF PROPOSED CHANGE, ATTENTION HAS FOCUSED ON: RIO TREATY (THERE IS A CONSENSUS TO CURB ITS USE FOR POLITICAL ENDS AND AN INDICATED LATIN CONSENSUS TO EXTEND IT TO "ECONOMIC ADAPTATION" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6112
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COMMITTEE SET UP THREE SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE (POLITICAL-SECURITY-PRINCIPLES, ECONOMIC-DEVELOPMENTAL, ADMINISTRATIVE-STRUCTURAL) TO BEGIN EXAMINING SPECIFICS. MANY APPEAR TO FAVOR DESIGNING A GENERAL WORK PLAN WITHIN EACH ONE AND PERHAPS INITIATING PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF OBJECTIVES, THEN PROMPTLY CLOSING DOWN LIMA PHASE TO RESUME WORK LATER IN WASHINGTON. OTHERS--PARTICULARLY PERUVIANS, WHOSE INVESTMENT OF PRESTIGE AND RESOURCES IS AT STAKE--FEEL SOMETHING MORE TANGIBLE SHOULD RESULT FROM THIS PHASE AND FEAR THAT RETURN TO "IMPERIALIST" PAU ATMOSPHERE IN WASHINGTON WILL SNUFF OUT CHANCES FOR EARLY, DRAMATIC CHANGES.

8. REMAINING AHEAD FOR U.S., HOWEVER, IS CENTRAL QUESTION
OF WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE (OR INDEED WORTHWHILE) TO SALVAGE
OUR ESSENTIAL INTERESTS IN RIO TREATY, CHARTER, AND PRESENT
OAS STRUCTURE WHILE ACCOMMODATING STRONG LATIN PRESSURES
TO MODIFY THESE SO AS TO GUARANTEE POLITICAL PLURALITY AND
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"ECONOMIC SECURITY." GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE TONE OF DELIBERA-
TIONS TO FAR SHOULD NOT, IN OUR VIEW, OBSCURE CLEAR SIGNALS
THAT SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES TOWARD THIS END ARE EXPECTED BY
MOST. WHILE MORE RADICAL PROPOSALS MAY NOT FLY PAST
IS STRONG AND POSITIONS WE EVENTUALLY TAKE WILL BE VITAL TO
FUTURE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH LATIN AMERICA.
BELCHER

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